

AGENDA ITEM 10c

NOTES

Notes of the Meeting of the **WHITCHURCH DOWN CONSULTATIVE GROUP** held on Tuesday 13th April, 2021 at 5.30pm conducted remotely via Zoom.

PRESENT

Councillor J Ellis (Chairman), Councillors A Hutton, Mrs A Johnson, B Smith

OTHER BODIES

Representative of Plasterdown Parish Council – Councillor J Freeman
National Park Ranger – Mr R Taylor
Representative of Tavistock Cricket Club – Absent
Representative of Whitchurch Commoners – Absent
Representative of Tavistock Golf Club – Mrs S Eastwood (Secretary)

IN ATTENDANCE

Carl Hearn: Town Clerk, Wayne Southall: General Manager, Rebecca Rowe: Town Hall & Events Manager

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Venning and Mr A Jarman: Tavistock Cricket Club

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

3. NOTES

- a) The Consultative Group received the Notes of the Meeting of the Whitchurch Down Consultative Group held on the 6th October, 2020 and endorsed their accuracy.
- b) It was reported that there was an error in the attendance list on the above Notes. Mrs S Eastwood (Secretary – Tavistock Golf Club) had been in attendance in that capacity, and had not represented Tavistock Cricket Club, as reported.

4. REPORTS

The Consultative Group considered the following reports from:

a) Tavistock Town Council (TTC)

• Drainage works

It was explained that a meeting had been held with Devon County Council (DCC) to discuss drainage/flooding issues at Middlemoor. It

had been discussed and agreed regarding what areas were the responsibility of each authority and DCC had agreed to consult further with local residents. TTC described what future works would be undertaken within the next 6 months on land under their custodianship, which included improving the existing natural drainage channels with the aim to help prevent water encroachment on the highway.

•Seating

TTC explained what the process and strategy was with regards to applying for a memorial bench on Whitchurch Down and explained how a programme was being implemented to continue with the refurbishment of the existing bench stock. Discussions were held around what system could be implemented to ensure in the future that no benches were erected without the necessary prior permissions within this vicinity, and how any such matters could be dealt with in a sympathetic manner.

•Vandalism/damage

The Town Hall & Event Manager described a recent incident where works had been carried to trees within the curtilage of a property on the boundary of Whitchurch Down, without prior permission, regarding access, where damage had been caused to the Down by works vehicles and a fire to burn arisings. It was explained that the necessary authorities had been notified at the time and attended, e.g. fire service and that as a whole the area now had recovered, barring some localised scarring. The Town Clerk explained that this matter, along with other recent anti-social issues, e.g. within the Meadows, would be discussed with the necessary authorities at the next scheduled Tavistock Matters.

b) Whitchurch Commoners

Not present and no report received.

c) National Park Ranger

The new National Park Ranger, Rob Taylor introduced himself, providing a background to his experience, explaining that he had only been appointed within this existing role for a few weeks so needed a period of time to familiarise himself, specific to Whitchurch Down. The group welcomed him, and wished him success in his new role.

d) Tavistock Cricket Club

Not present and no report received.

e) Tavistock Golf Club

The Golf Club confirmed that a meeting had been arranged to walk around the 18 holes with the General Manager to discuss any recent

changes and future plans specific to their provision on Whitchurch Down.

f) Plasterdown Parish Council

Councillor Freeman thanked Tavistock Town Council for their quick response in dealing with issues at the quarry and other response maintenance concerns that had been flagged at the previous meeting.

5. WHITCHURCH DOWN MANAGEMENT PLAN

It was explained that work would commence on drafting the Whitchurch Down Management Plan covering the period of 2021-2026 within the next quarter which would include a consultation with the key stakeholders. The plan would cover the core headings of 1) biodiversity, 2) public enjoyment, access and recreation, 3) farming and land management & 4) historical features. The aim would be to have the plan endorsed by the Consultative Group at the next planned meeting, dated 2nd November 2021.

6. URGENT BUSINESS

None

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 2nd November, 2021

The meeting closed at 5.55pm

Signed:

Dated:
CHAIRMAN